

# Habitat Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Marshall Draw RX Fire and Seeding - Year 3

**Proposal Number:** 1100

**DWR Region:** Northeastern Region

**Lead Agency:** DWR

**County:** Daggett

**Project Manager:** Alison Whittaker

**PM Phone:** 4357815358

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 07/01/2008

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**Project Location:** Marshall Draw, Pitt Draw, and Crouse Canyon. Approximately 5 miles south of Brown's Park

**Project Description:** Reseed approximately 4,000 acres of mature pinyon and juniper woodland following a planned prescribed fire.

**Description of Problem/Need:** The BLM (Vernal District) has been performing several prescribed fire projects over the past several years as part of the national fire plan. The focus of these burns has been hazardous fuel reduction as well as aspen regeneration. One project that they have been working on is a 7,096 acre fuel reduction burn in the Marshall Draw, Pitt Draw, and Crouse Canyon area of Diamond Mountain. The Marshall Draw WMA is located in this area, mainly in the canyon bottoms. The burn area consists of old growth pinyon/juniper woodlands on the slopes and ridges, with sagebrush and grass draws in the bottoms being rapidly encroached by P/J. It is imperative to remove encroachment before the understory of desirable browse, grass, and forbs is lost. If the condition is left untreated, the area will be susceptible to a catastrophic fire event. Crouse Canyon has been identified as a bighorn sheep release site. Burning P/J from the slopes is necessary to prepare the habitat for bighorn sheep. Approximately 3,400 acres of the burn area have been completed leaving approximately 4,000 acres.

**Objectives:** Reduce hazardous fuels and improve bighorn sheep habitat by clearing pinyon and juniper trees on the steep slopes in Marshall Draw, Pitt Canyon and Crouse Canyon.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This project compliments UDWR's Watershed Restoration Initiative the project supports herd unit management plans for mule deer (teir III), elk, and bighorn sheep (teir III). Bighorns are slated to be released in the area in the next couple of years. Crouse Creek has been identified by UDWR fisheries staff in the Utah CRCT Conservation Strategy as a potential site for reintroduction of Colorado River Cutthroat trout (teir I). It is anticipated that the proposed fire will improve watershed quality by decreasing silt loading and increasing water flows.

**Potential Risks:** Minor chance of cheatgrass invasion

**Proposed Methods:** The phase I Marshall Draw proposal presented in 2003 was for archeological clearances on UDWR lands. A contractor completed this work in the summer of 2004. The BLM archeological clearances and NEPA were completed by BLM in 2004. The BLM will cover the costs and crew for burning the area. They will also complete all pre-fire protection of archeology sites on both UDWR and BLM lands. UDWR will then provide seed for application on the steep P/J slopes with little understory on both UDWR and BLM lands. Seed will be applied aerially during the fall following the fire.

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**Shapefile Name:** Marshall Draw Year 3 #1100

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:**

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**      ☒ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Details:** Range trend studies will be established in the burn area to document vegetative response. Photo point studies will also be established to show visual trends. No formal wildlife monitoring is proposed, however deer and elk use will be documented through routine classification and trund surveys.

**Cons. Outreach Details:** The project will be covered through UDWR press releases to local newspapers and through UDWR presentations to interested groups and agencies.

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

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Bighorn Sheep

Elk

Mule Deer

CO River Cutthroat Tr

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	4725
DWR	850
SITLA	455
<b>Total</b>	<b>6030</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM FLR	\$100,000.00		\$0.00
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$209,000.00		\$0.00
Habitat Acct 174	\$20,000.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$329,000.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	Seed from GBRC @ \$50/acre	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Aerial Seed Application @	\$28,000.00	\$0.00
Motor Pool	Vehicle Mileage	\$500.00	\$0.00
Personal Services	Seasonal Employee	\$500.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Prescribed burning and prep costs @ \$25/acre	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$229,000.00</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	90
Sport Fish	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Project Map:

BROWNS PARK  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE  
REFUGE

Marshall Draw RX Fire and Seeding #1100

MOUNTAINS

UTAH  
COLORADO

Allen

Draw

